Adventist Heritage Centre

Newsletter, April/May 2015

Stories of War – New Exhibit in the SSIM

To coincide with the 100th Year Commemoration of Gallipoli, the Adventist Heritage Centre has launched its new exhibition at the South Sea Islands Museum, Stories of War. The exhibit encompasses all wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations in which Australians have been involved in. The stories tell of where the Seventh-day Adventist Church stood at the beginning of World War I and follows through individual and group stories into World War II. There is a strong focus on the Pacific during WWII as a large part of our collection comes from this period. We have a range of artefacts and photographs on display, featuring the enlistment process, medical work, the Kokoda trail, shell art, and more.

The South Sea Islands Museum is open 2-4pm, Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday, or by appointment. The SSIM is located at 27 Avondale Road, Cooranbong, and entry is by donation. For more information contact the Adventist Heritage Centre via email at heritage@avondale.edu.au or by phone at (02) 4980 2313.

Amazing gift from Museums & Galleries N.S.W.

How gracious is God. Museums & Galleries NSW (Sydney) were moving office and we received some of their older furniture for our Centre. We now have individual desks for our staff and researchers, some archive card and boxes, an extra scanner and a collection of art/museum books and catalogues. One box of used ring binders is on its way to the Solomon Islands SDA Education director for distribution to schools. Four black wooden chairs will be installed in the South Sea Islands Museum along with a display case in the near future. And in anticipation of us getting a new museum we now have one server cabinet. Best of all a donor paid for the truck hire and two husky young men to collect and deliver the items to us. All we can say is thank-you Lord, we so appreciate the donation.

Stormy week in Cooranbong

While we lost power on Monday night and did not get it back until 9.45 pm Thursday night, we did not suffer any damages or loss. It did make us appreciate what we so often take for granted. A tree did fall at the front of the
Museum, it missed both Sunnyside and the Museum thankfully. I like to think an angel gave it a nudge to fall where it did, as it could have caused major damage if it had fallen differently.

100 Years Ago

With Easter having come and gone for another year, an intriguing insight into the history of the festivities of Easter was included in the April 5, 1915 issue of Signs of the Times. According to the article, the very date of when the holiday should be celebrated has been a point of contention over time. Some believed it should align with the Jewish Passover, others believed it should be celebrated on a Sunday only. At the Council of Nice in A.D. 325, Constantine appointed Easter to be celebrated on the 14th day of the first month of Jewish year. Nevertheless, for a period of time, the British church followed the calculations of Alexandria and the bishop to determine the date. This changed after the invasion of the Saxons and Angles ended in the fifth century, and communication with Rome was reopened. The British church then began to follow the custom of Rome, the date appointed at the Council of Nice.

In A.D. 525, Abbott the Dionysiuis reconstructed the calendar, which introduced a different method of calculating Easter dates, enabling Rome to amalgamate pagan and Christian festivities. In A.D. 669, Archbishop Theodore established the Roman custom of Easter dates, which has prevailed since. Britain, however, refused to conform to the ‘new style’ of calendar, according to the article.

Today in Western Christianity, the Gregorian calendar is used to determine Easter, which always falls on a Sunday between March 22 and April 25, within seven days after the astronomical full moon. Eastern Christianity however uses the Julian Calendar, which because of the 13-day difference which between it and the Gregorian calendar between, Easter is celebrated later, between April 4 and May 8. The Julian Calendar is no longer used as the civil calendar in countries where Eastern Christianity is dominant.

The 100 year old article also notes the various adoptions of church festivities into the celebration of Easter; the practice of Lent beforehand, the inclusions of eggs as symbols for new life. What a rich reminder of the history behind the festival we continue to celebrate today. May we remember Easter for the act of sacrificial love the Father had, that “followers of Jesus Christ will manifest his love for his Master by keeping His commandments” (‘Whence Came the Festival of Easter?’ April 5, 1915, p.1-3).

Need your help with two items:

1. In the coming years we would like to display more stories about Seventh-day Adventists who served or were caught up in War zones somewhere. Do you have a story to tell, or know of a story you can share? Do you have any photographs, objects, etc. that you would be willing to give us to use in coming exhibits. Please do contact us (see below).

2. We have just recently learnt that the Greater Sydney Conference had an adoption agency. We know the files were passed to DOCs and that they do have them. However we know nothing more about this agency that would have had a profound effect on many lives. We would like to learn more about this Agency:
a. When, how & why did it begin and close business?

b. Who worked for it?

c. How did the adoption process work?

d. Was it restricted to Adventists in any way?

e. Are there any stories (parents or adopted children) that you may know and are willing to share with us?

Please do email or write to us (see below), as we have no evidence that this Agency existed other than what 2 people have told us.

Mystery History

![Picture of people](image.png)

Do you recognise the people in this photograph (left to right, front to back)?

Do you know who this group is and where the photo was taken? We believe it may have been at Carmel College.

Can you name the year this photograph was taken?

If yes, please email the Adventist Heritage Centre at heritage@avondale.edu.au.

If you have any comments or questions:

Phone: (02) 4980 2313    Email: heritage@avondale.edu.au

Web: [http://heritage.adventistconnect.org/](http://heritage.adventistconnect.org/)

Mail: Adventist Heritage Centre, PO Box 19, Cooranbong, NSW 2265.


Your AHC Team
If you wish to be taken off this mailing list, are receiving duplicate emails or if you know of someone who would be interested in receiving our news contact heritage@avondale.edu.au.